

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 293

By Dean

A RESOLUTION recognizing the Boy Scouts of America for the public service the organization performs through its contributions to the lives of the Nation's boys and young men.

WHEREAS, scouting is the largest voluntary youth movement in the world, with a membership totaling more than twenty-five million; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America is an organization that was incorporated on February 8, 1910, and recognized by Federal charter on June 15, 1916, to provide an educational program for boys and young men to build strong moral character, train in the responsibilities of participatory citizenship, and develop personal fitness; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America teaches the core values of duty to God and country, personal honor, respect for the beliefs of others, volunteerism, and interdependence with the environment, principles which are conducive to good character, citizenship, and health; and

WHEREAS, since 1910, more than 111,000,000 people have been members of the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America is a model for inclusiveness, with millions of boys and young men from every ethnic, religious, and economic background, including those with disabilities and special needs, participating in scouting programs across the United States; and

WHEREAS, each local Boy Scout Council commits each Boy Scout to perform twelve hours of community service each year, for a total of thirty million community service hours annually; and

WHEREAS, more than one million adult volunteer leaders selflessly serve young people in their communities through organizations chartered by the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has ruled that the Boy Scouts of America, as a private, voluntary, non-business organization, has the right to set its own standards for membership and leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America have always affirmed faith in God as foundational and essential to its purpose and mission, animated by Lord Baden-Powell's insight that "God has given us....the great Book of Nature to read; and (no one can) say that there is untruth there - the facts stand before them"; and

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America enjoys a sustained record of proven success in producing leaders for our nation who are trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this body recognizes the Boy Scouts of America and expresses appreciation for the public service the organization performs through its contributions to the lives of the Nation's boys and young men.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.